

self, not upon me. There has never been a moment when I could not have had the Eepublican nomination with practical unanimity by simply raising one finger. At this moment I am still actively engaged in getting delegates for Taft—as in Texas, for instance, to mention something that occurred a week ago; or in preventing delegates who have been instructed for Taft for declaring that they would go for me anyhow—to cite action which I took yesterday as regards two delegates in West Virginia. Any man competent to express any opinion whatever knows this perfectly well. He knows that not merely the far West but that, for instance, the conventions of New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts and Vermont would have gone for me with the wildest enthusiasm if I had merely said I was willing to abide by the judgment of the party as to whether or not it was expedient that I should run.

Under such circumstances, when I could without the slightest difficulty have made each State convention declare for me with infinitely greater enthusiasm than any State convention has shown about anything yet, it is simply silly to suppose that I would go into some intrigue even more futile than tortuous!—an intrigue that would have to be kept secret from all my best friends, including, for instance, Senator Lodge, and Loeb, and all my family—an intrigue which would be entirely pointless, and almost certainly of no avail. Moreover, be it remembered that the same people who speak of this as my secret intention are at other times the ones who are loudest in

denouncing me  
for trying to bring about Taft's nomination.  
The real fact  
is, as most of them know perfectly well, that  
nothing could  
have prevented my renomination excepting the  
most reso-  
lute effort on my part to get some one else  
accepted as  
representing me and nominated in my place;  
and I had this  
object partly in view in endeavoring to get Taft  
nominated,  
although I was of course mainly actuated by  
the fact that I  
think that of all men in the country Taft is  
the best fitted  
at this time to be President and to carry on  
the work upon  
which we have entered during the past six  
years.